



Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 2, 2012

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor
to develop a Program to encourage
the adoption of animals from the
County Animal Shelter as
companions for the elderly

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 2, 2012

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)
10-2-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR
DESIGNEE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO
ENCOURAGE THE ADOPTION OF ANIMALS FROM
THE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AS COMPANIONS
FOR THE ELDERLY

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Animal Services Department houses many dogs
and cats that are available for adoption and would make excellent companions; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that pets greatly help the elderly with the need for
companionship; and

WHEREAS, while pets can take various forms, dogs consistently rank at the top of the
list of favorite pets for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, most seniors say that they are less lonely and much happier when they have
adopted a pet; and

WHEREAS, pets give the elderly a sense of security; and

WHEREAS, seniors feel safer answering the door when there is a dog present; and

WHEREAS, dogs can also alert seniors who are hard of hearing to a ringing telephone or
the ringing of a door bell; and

WHEREAS, dogs are an especially good choice for seniors who need socialization; and

WHEREAS, seniors who walk their dogs get to know the people in the neighborhood;
and

WHEREAS, pets help break the ice and encourage friendly conversation between people
who might otherwise feel they have nothing in common; and

WHEREAS, seniors need to socialize to maintain good mental health and a pet provides them with stories to share with others; and

WHEREAS, pets help the elderly to keep focused on the present and keep them in touch with the small pleasures of life; and

WHEREAS, being responsible for another life can add new meaning to any senior way of living; and

WHEREAS, caring for and providing a loving home to a companion animal also helps elderly people to remain active both mentally, physically and therefore stay healthy; and

WHEREAS, seniors keep active by feeding, grooming and caring for their pets; and

WHEREAS, companion dogs for seniors get the elderly out of their houses and into the fresh air and sunshine; and

WHEREAS, dogs give the opportunity to elderly owner to meet other people who he or she can talk with and socialize during they daily walking; and

WHEREAS, for years, it has been medically documented that companion dogs for seniors help people live longer and healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, nursing homes, social workers and home care workers recommend companion animals to help the elderly lead happy, healthy lives and give them independence and hope; and

WHEREAS, studies and research also indicate a link between dog ownership and an increased survival rate for cardiac patients and also other potential health benefits can include lower blood pressure, decreased stress, reduced bone loss, lower cholesterol levels, and improved blood circulation; and

WHEREAS, studies shows that most of the people in the world are living longer lives these days and sometimes elderly people find themselves living alone because they have little contact with family and friends, or because they live far from any family; and

WHEREAS, pets are good for all emotional and physical health and especially for sick and elderly people; and

WHEREAS, studies show that relaxed, happy people do not become ill as often as those who suffer from stress and depression,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby directs the Mayor or his designee: (i) to develop a program to encourage the adoption of animals from the County's Animal Shelter as companions for the elderly, including consideration of discounting or waiving adoption fees and of aggressively promoting the program on radio, on print advertisements, and in other media; and (ii) to present the program to this Board within 90 days of the effective date of this Resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Sen. Javier D. Souto. The foregoing was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of October, 2012. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Dennis A. Kerbel

